

T

R

E

L

A

## **ATTENTION LONG TERM CARE PROVIDERS:**

Effective March 1, 2002, the Alabama Medicaid Agency Long Term Care Division will be applying the definition of chronic stable state as found in the Medicare Coverage Issues Manual in review of medical documentation for admissions to the long term care programs. A *chronic stable state* is "not during a period of any acute illness or an exacerbation of their underlying disease." In general, a person is considered to have a chronic condition when it has persisted for over six months and there have been no significant changes in the past 30-60 days. The providers will be expected to have supporting documentation of an unstable medical condition that would indicate an episode of an acute illness and active treatment within the past 30 to 60 days. If you have any questions concerning this Alert, please contact Nancy Headley with the Alabama Medicaid Agency Long Term Care Division at (334) 242-5684.

January 27, 2002